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Agenda item 74

Promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Third Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled:

"Promotion and protection of human rights:

"(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

"(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

"(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. An account of the Third Committee's consideration of the item is given in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 74
Promotion and protection of human rights

No documents were submitted.

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols A/73/589, A/73/589/Add.1, A/73/589/Add.2, A/73/589/Add.3 and A/73/589/Add.4.

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Item 74 (a)
Implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Human Rights Committee on its 120th, 121st and 122nd sessions (A/73/40)

Report of the Committee against Torture on its sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions (A/73/44)

Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions (A/73/48)

Report of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions (A/73/56)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery (A/73/264)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/73/281)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the human rights treaty body system (A/73/309)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their 30th meeting (A/73/140)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/73/207)

Note by the Secretariat on the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/73/282)

Item 74 (b)
Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Secretary-General on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief (A/73/153)

Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/73/172)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights in the administration of justice (A/73/210)

Report of the Secretary-General on the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (A/73/230)

Report of the Secretary-General on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty (A/73/260)

Report of the Secretary-General on the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights (A/73/347)

Report of the Secretary-General on missing persons (A/73/385)

Note by the Secretariat on the right to development (A/73/138)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences (A/73/139 and A/73/139/Corr.1)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (A/73/152)

Note by the Secretariat on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (A/73/158)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (A/73/161)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (A/73/162)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/73/163)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (A/73/164)

Note by the Secretariat on the United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (A/73/165)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/73/171)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (A/73/173)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights (A/73/175)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/73/178/Rev.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights (A/73/179)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism (A/73/181)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (A/73/188)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues (A/73/205)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity (A/73/206)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (A/73/215)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/73/216)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (A/73/227)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/73/262)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development (A/73/271)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (A/73/279)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context (A/73/310/Rev.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/73/314)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence (A/73/336)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (A/73/348)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/73/361)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (A/73/362)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (A/73/365)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (A/73/396)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy (A/73/438)

Item 74 (c)
Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/73/299)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/73/308)

Note by the Secretariat on the situation of human rights in Somalia (A/73/330)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/73/332)

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (A/73/363)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (A/73/380)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/73/386)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/73/398)

Note by the Secretariat on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine (A/73/404)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/73/447)

Letter dated 21 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/73/397)

Letter dated 16 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/73/442)

Letter dated 19 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/73/449)

Item 74 (d)
Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/73/36)

Letter dated 20 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/73/399)

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.5/Rev.1

4. At its 44th meeting, on 6 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "World Braille Day" (A/C.3/73/L.5/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.5 and was submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Cabo Verde, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mongolia, Myanmar, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Angola, Argentina, Benin, Burundi, Canada, Chile, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Montenegro, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

5. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

6. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda made a statement.

7. Also at its 44th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.5/Rev.1 (see para. 9).

B. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

8. At its 54th meeting, on 20 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of documents considered in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights (see para. 10).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

9. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

World Braille Day

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as set out in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally, as well as of improving the efficiency, performance and transparency of the Organization,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, and paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[1] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[1]

Recalling also that braille is a means of communication for blind persons, as reflected in article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[2] and can be relevant in the contexts of education, freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information and written communication, as well as in the context of social inclusion for blind persons, as reflected in articles 21 and 24 of the Convention,

Recognizing that braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols,

Recognizing also that braille is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font,

Affirming that the use of braille by individuals who are blind or partially sighted ensures the communication of important information to them and others and represents competency, independence and equality,

Affirming also that, because the importance of well-developed literacy skills on the part of all individuals is reflected in the value placed on reading and writing in schools and throughout society, instruction in literacy skills can justifiably be considered the cornerstone of education and an important tool in the fight against poverty,

Recognizing that promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of access to written language is a critical prerequisite to the full realization of human rights for blind and partially sighted people,

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[1] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

1. *Decides* to proclaim 4 January World Braille Day, to be observed each year beginning in 2019, in order to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Braille Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of braille as a means of communication;

3. *Encourages* Member States to take measures throughout society to raise awareness of braille as a means of communication;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system;

5. Stresses that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions.

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents submitted under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights":

Under sub-item 74 (a):

(a) Report of the Committee against Torture on its sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions;[2]

(c) Report of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions;[3]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery;[4]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;[5]

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their 30th meeting;[6]

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;[7]

(h) Note by the Secretariat on the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;[8]

Under sub-item 74 (b):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights;[9]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;[10]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/73/44).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 48* (A/73/48).
[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 56* (A/73/56).
[4] A/73/264.
[5] A/73/281.
[6] A/73/140.
[7] A/73/207.
[8] A/73/282.
[9] A/73/172.
[10] A/73/230.

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights;[11]

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the right to development;[12]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences;[13]

(f) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;[14]

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities;[15]

(h) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation;[16]

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises;[17]

(j) Note by the Secretariat on the United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas;[18]

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons;[19]

(l) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants;[20]

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights;[21]

(n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism;[22]

(o) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment;[23]

(p) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues;[24]

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[11] A/73/347.
[12] A/73/138.
[13] A/73/139 and A/73/139/Corr.1.
[14] A/73/152.
[15] A/73/161.
[16] A/73/162.
[17] A/73/163.
[18] A/73/165.
[19] A/73/173.
[20] A/73/178/Rev.1.
[21] A/73/179.
[22] A/73/181.
[23] A/73/188.
[24] A/73/205.

(q) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity;[25]

(r) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders;[26]

(s) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;[27]

(t) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights;[28]

(u) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education;[29]

(v) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association;[30]

(w) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context;[31]

(x) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence;[32]

(y) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression;[33]

(z) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;[34]

(aa) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers;[35]

(bb) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy;[36]

Under sub-item 74 (c):

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the situation of human rights in Somalia;[37]

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi;[38]

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[25] A/73/206.
[26] A/73/215.
[27] A/73/216.
[28] A/73/227.
[29] A/73/262.
[30] A/73/279.
[31] A/73/310/Rev.1.
[32] A/73/336.
[33] A/73/348.
[34] A/73/361.
[35] A/73/365.
[36] A/73/438.
[37] A/73/330.
[38] A/73/363.

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus;[39]

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine;[40]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;[41]

Under sub-item 74 (d):

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.[42]

[39] A/73/380.
[40] A/73/404.
[41] A/73/447.
[42] A/73/36.